The ordinary human being does not live long enough to draw any substantial benefit from his own experience. And no one, it seems, can benefit by the experiences of others.
Albert Einstein

I suspect most people move through life thinking the way we live, our banking systems, our economic system, our understanding of the nature of money itself, has been more or less the same for hundreds or thousands of years, and it has not. It's the same conflict today as the Roman histories were conflicts between social/economic classes. Money holds a mythic place in our society akin to religion. As example, in 1915 the rural populations of China and Russia were peasants living in huts as their ancestors had for centuries. A small cadre of aristocrats held absolute power and modernity required them to create technocratic classes of middle managers who arose from the poor. Russia was attacked in WWI and China in WWII and peasants saw tanks, trucks and aircraft, symbols of wealth they could never achieve. The invaders starved and killed the peasants *en masse*. Modern firearms enabled angry peasants to overthrow their Medieval systems and they turned on their masters with vengeance, reordered their governments, each balancing the societies' greed of a few against the needs of the many, differently. I've grown to adulthood with the Soviet Union and Communist China regarded as mortal enemies, we all armed ourselves to mutual destruction of the world over these differences: their beliefs about the relationship of people to property. We may find the systems they constructed for governance abhorrent but *the fundamental differences are beliefs* of what money represents and what it can do for us.

Money and wealth always seeks vastly greater influence of societal direction and governance than their numbers have ever amounted as a proportion of society. Money is the rawest expression of power, and will be used as such, by those who relentlessly seek more of it. They do not use money as "Speech" but to wield power. *Money had always been regarded as Property,* but in 2010 SCOTUS added another *magical* quality. Amen.

Some think there was nothing we would understand as an economy before 1750 and the development since has been in fits and starts. When animal and human labor was the overwhelming source of all manufacturing there was no growth to speak of. Windmills and waterwheels had been known to antiquity, world-wide, several times disappearing in places following societal collapse, but failed to be *reliably* productive. The lowest classes used barter and exchanged property in lieu of currency.

Steam power invented in Britain was quickly replicated world-wide, first in coal-mining for energy for making more steam power, then expanding to mills for textile, paper, printing, wood-milling, steel & glass manufacturing. Cities dominated some industries, drawing workers to overcrowded slums, leading to health, labor, nutritional and housing reforms, rural areas slowly depopulated, and it's all been continuing so, for centuries. Rural Parishes, Presbyteries, Diocese had for generations provided food and shelter to the poor, destitute, diseased, aged, orphaned, to find cities too crowded for religious institutions to provide for so many.

1776 Adam Smith publishes *The Wealth of Nations*; some of our Signing and Founding Fathers read it with interest, writing commentaries and opinions. The US Constitution is written by people living in the midst of the rural-industrial transition and wonder of future problems apparent to great societal change and organizations. Change the Constitution? They allow it.

1800, as the Napoleonic Era begins the House of Rothschild forms as a family network of small bankers in Europe. Their genius is forming the swiftest communication networks in the world. They knew the outcome of Waterloo before the British Prime Minister. The speed of intelligence becomes vital to investment banking and the Rothschild family proved that. Modern banking begins at this era. It may perhaps some day be said that the speed of Artificial Intelligence is driving our monied classes today to invest so greatly for the same reasons.

The United States gets a slow start with steam power, what with the War of 1812, and all. American industrialists are pirating the technology as fast as they can, damn-the-rules attitudes are the norm in the pursuit of wealth. It's a safer world for them when they keep quiet about it and manipulate behind the scenes. I've wondered if their social media may tip the balance we contest today, from disgust, because a dollar taken from them and spent feeding a meal is an outrage because they cannot profit by its loss.

1800 to 1919 in the United States there are repeated financial "crises" and "panics" and they all center around debt. Common people have no borrowing resources but businesses and governments do, and they're profitable for the bankers. Dinner parties, marriages, Washington DC and New York society pages. *The Great Gatsby* is about that world.

1919 Henry Ford begins Consumer Loans allowing those gainfully employed to borrow upon their future earnings. Montgomery-Ward, Sears, other retailers follow and the generation of our grandparents have a new understanding of debt. Their children, our parents, understood debt may be a reward for being gainfully employed. That was how I understood my mother considered debt. My father was old school and money was saved towards a goal. They can both be wrong, and right, at the same time.

The problem is that as debt grows in scale there will become a point when there is not enough currency to go around to repay all creditors. Shortages of currency lead to devaluation, perhaps inflation, and the cycles continue down, sometimes crash. In the 80 years since WWII this has happened repeatedly to Argentina, who has defaulted on debts five times since 1982, most every country with WWII debt was bankrupted, except the United States. Black Tuesday, October 29th 1929, occurred eight months into the Hoover Administration, then for 3 1/2 years slowly unraveled to the 1933 Crash. Upon FDRs first administration social programs were quickly put in place for the emergency, agencies and departments were created, often by overwhelming public/voter demand, known as The New Deal.

Each Congress lasts two years and Democrats won a majority of seats in 1933 only losing twice before 1995, the 80th - 1947/49, 83rd - 1953/55, both times during which the GOP immediately sought to reverse New Deal legislation, to quickly lose their majority the next election. In 1995/97 the GOP gained a majority under Speaker Newt Gingrich who then chipped away at Civil Rights & New Deal legislation; each party has returned to power about every two or three terms, four to six years, since.

> President Trump speaks of Great America which encompasses policies from 1950 to 1980. This 30 year period had the greatest union membership and most egalitarian income of workers to management in US history. The Democratic Party held a majority of Congress in both houses and enacted economic policies during almost this entire time.
> President Reagan came to office in 1981 and “shareholder value” became preeminent and management then sent factory jobs offshore seeking lower labor costs and lower prices which then enriched management and stockholders while increasing unemployment.
> The “Great America” that Trump imagines was created by the Democratic Party and destroyed these last 45 years by the Republican Party.
>
> Charles Vigneron, Walla Walla Union-Bulletin - Letter to the Editor

The Republican Party has, in my lifetime, assembled coalitions around social issues of: Prayer in Schools, Second Amendment, Gay marriage, recently vaccines, gender & DEI. The opposite of Diversity is Conformity, of Equity it is Injustice, of Inclusion it is Tribalism. They are attracted to a party that addresses their grievances, however the GOP monied interests desire and will allow almost anyone who will give them free reins to use their money without restrictions or regulations in their efforts for profit.

The Boomer generation became prosperous from work. The US Post-WWII industrial production in 1950 was 60% of all world manufacturing, decreasing as devastated nations in Asia & Europe rebuilt. Foreign labor costs being less than US workers demand President Reagan ushered in another economic system: Neoliberalism. It's not important to know details about it, the unspoken GOP premise is Wall Street investment growth will provide a standard of living the Boomers have become accustomed to without actually doing the work— we'll thrive from the clever Wall Street blokes, and they're always men, who will drive our economy with *Trickle Down Wealth*. (more magical thinking) Trickle-down Theory didn't work, it was usually warm, yellow, and smelled like piss. The GOP made promises to maintain a Boomer standard of living if they were elected. They failed to mention that standard of living would be maintained by massive borrowing & debt which, predictably, is coming due. The United States is in a moment of the world's greatest generational theft of wealth.
Sorry kids, you're shit outta luck!

This is how I place myself within our current historical context.

What is now happening beyond our knowledge is the carving-up of government by the monied interests to guarantee their survival when the crash comes. We've seen this behavior reported about Romania, Hungary, Russia, Chile and Argentina before they collapsed. That's what the distractions are meant to hide, sometimes they'll create a war for distraction and why I'm watching what we're doing to Venezuelan boats which *don't have the range to cross the Caribbean*— it's a deadly farce.

Trump's Cabinet members are ejecting Generals from their homes on military bases and moving-in because, for good reason, they live in fear. They expect the military will save them, when, all too often, the military will be the first to turn on them, as a Junta. We can only watch and wait.